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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Voluntary fund for the participation of least developed countries in the World Conference on Human Rights and the preparatory process thereto

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/116 of 17 December 1991, reiterated its invitation for contributions of extrabudgetary resources to meet the costs of participation of representatives of the least developled countries in the World Conference on Human Rights and in its preparatory meetings, including regional meetings. It also requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts in this regard.

2. A note and explanatory memorandum (see annex) were sent to all States on 10 January 1992, soliciting contributions to the voluntary fund established for this purpose and advising them of the amount required to cover the costs of travel of representatives of the least developed countries in the various meetings of the preparatory process and the World Conference itself.

3. At the time of the preparation of this report, contributions had been received from Finland, Ireland, Morocco and the Netherlands. The total amount so far contributed is $US 192,647. In addition, the Secretary-General had been informed of the decisions of Norway, Sweden and France to contribute $US 30,000, Skr 300,000 and FF 100,000, respectively, to the fund.

4. The Secretary-General reiterates his appeal to States which may be in a position to do so to contribute to the fund. In this regard it will be recalled that the target figure needed to meet the financial requirements for participation by the least developed countries in the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparatory process is approximately $US 690,000.

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ANNEX

Note verbale

G/SO 214 (21-2)

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to ..... and has the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 45/155, as well as resolution 1991/30 of the Commission on Human Rights, relating to the World Conference on Human Rights. Pursuant to these resolutions, the Secretary-General was requested to invite contributions of extrabudgetary resources to meet, inter alia, the costs associated with participating in the preparatory process and the World Conference for representatives of the States identified by the General Assembly as the least developed countries.

At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly endorsed the decisions of the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on this subject, and called upon the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts in seeking contributions for this purpose.

A voluntary fund has now been established for the specific purpose of defraying the travel expenses of representatives of the least developed countries.

Contributions to the fund may be made in one of two ways:

(a) By direct transfer, contributions can be made to the Swiss Bank Corporation to the credit of:

UN GENEVA GENERAL FUND - SOCIETE DE BANQUE SUISSE
Case postale 2770
1211 GENEVA 2 (Switzerland)
Account No. CO. 590.160.0 (contributions in Swiss francs) or
Account No. CO. 590.160.1 (contributions in US$)

(b) Contributions may also be forwarded by cheque, payable to the United Nations, as follows:

Cashier's Office
Room 213
Financial Resources Management Service
Palais des Nations
Place des Nations
1211 Geneva 10 (Switzerland)

In each case contributors are kindly requested to quote as reference: WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, ACCOUNT HRB-23280. Attached is an information note giving further details about the fund.

10 January 1992

Attachment to the Annex

Information note

Funding criteria

Subject to the levels of contribution, travel costs for one representative of each of the 42 least developed countries would be defrayed, in accordance with the applicable rules. Accordingly, travel would be authorized on the basis of a full fare round trip economy class ticket, or business class for air travel longer than nine hours.

Estimated costs	US $
Preparatory Committee, second session, Geneva, March 1992	120,000
Regional Meeting, San José, July 1992	1,000
Preparatory Committee, third session, Geneva, September 1992	120,000
Regional meeting, Tunis, autumn 1992	96,000
Regional meeting, Bangkok, August 1992	21,000
Preparatory Committee, fourth session, Geneva, March 1993	120,000
World Conference, June 1993	120,000
Total	598,000 *

NOTE: The General Assembly and UNCTAD have identified the following States as the least developed countries: *

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu and Yemen.

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* Cambodia, Madagascar, the Solomon Islands, Zaire and Zambia have since been added to the list of least developed countries. The total amount required for the fund is therefor estimated at $US 690,000.